

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02457 221559Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 W
-----104926 221604Z /41
O 221542Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4559
WHITE HOUSE, NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 02457

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR;
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI; JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI CABINET DECISIONS ON NEXT STEPS
- IN PEACE PROCESS--MILITARY COMMITTEE

REF: TEL AVIV 950

1. IN CALL TODAY ON PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED
MAREI, AT HIS REQUEST, MAREI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE
MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD RECONVENE NEXT FEW DAYS. I TOLD
HIM WE ARE URGING ISRAELIS TO AGREE TO RESUMPTION, BUT
NO ONE COULD BE SURE OF ISRAELI REACTION AFTER LAST
NIGHT'S SPEECH. (WHEN CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE, REFTEL
NOT YET RECEIVED.) MAREI REGRETFULLY AGREED, BUT SAID
HE HOPED WE WILL DO UTMOST TO PERSUADE BEGIN THAT IT IS
IN INTERESTS BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT IF MILITARY COMMITTEE
RECONVENES.

2. IN EVENT BEGIN REFUSES, MAREI THOUGHT IT WOULD STILL
BE USEFUL IF WEIZMAN AND HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER COULD COME
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02457 221559Z

IN NEXT FEW DAYS ON A PERSONAL VISIT TO EGYPT. WEIZMAN
ALREADY HAS AN INVITATION TO MAKE SUCH A PERSONAL VISIT
AND, IN MAREI'S VIEW, THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DO SO.
EVEN IF MILITARY COMMITTEE IS NOT FORMALLY RESUMED, IT
WOULD ALLOW SOME USEFUL PRIVATE EXCHANGES THAT MIGHT
HELP CLEAR THE AIR.

3. MAREI'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS TO FIND WAYS TO LOWER THE RHETORIC IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. HE REALIZED THAT ELEMENTS OF SADAT'S SPEECH MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO DO SO, BUT ALSO NOTED SADAT HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THE DOOR TO PEACE IS STILL OPEN. I TOLD HIM WE SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE PERIOD AHEAD SHOULD BE ONE OF LOWERED RHETORIC AND THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MADE THIS POINT TO SADAT. I URGED MAREI TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH SADAT AND THE EGYPTIAN PRESS TO PUT THIS POINT ACROSS. HE SAID HE WILL DO SO.

4. REMAINDER OF MAREI'S PRESENTATION WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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